

LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the West Kesteven
Rural District

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

REPORT OF THE

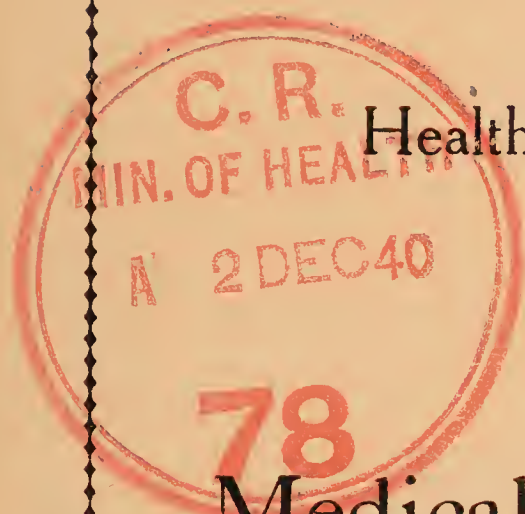
Chief Sanitary Inspector

G. L. ROBINSON, M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.S.I.A.

1939

Grantham :

Palmer & Son, Printers and Stationers, Vine Street.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the West Kesteven
Rural District

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE

REPORT OF THE


Chief Sanitary Inspector

G. L. ROBINSON, M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.S.I.A.

1939

Grantham :

Palmer & Son, Printers and Stationers, Vine Street.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30261090>

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

C. H. D. ROBBS,, M.B.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

G. L. ROBINSON, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., M.S.I.A.,
Certificated Inspector of Meat and other Foods,
also Water Engineer and Surveyor.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

J, DEAN, A.R.S.I.

Junior Assistant :

A. R. HOLMES.

Clerk :

R. P. COX.

West Kesteven Rural District Council.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1939.

Population (Estimated for the year)...	...	15,360
Area ... ..	...	122,406 acres
Rateable Value ... ..	...	£56,025
Estimated product of a penny rate...	...	£222

		Total.		Males.		Females.
BIRTHS ... ..	...	239	...	116	...	123
Legitimate	...	227	...	109	...	118
Illegitimate	...	12	...	7	...	5
Stillbirths	...	14	...	8	...	6
DEATHS ... ..	...	193	...	83	...	110
Infantile Deaths	...	10	...	6	...	4
Legitimate	...	10	...	6	...	4
Illegitimate	...	—	...	—	...	—
BIRTH RATE ... ..	...	...	15'5	per 1,000	per annum	
Average for England and Wales			15'0	„	„	
CRUDE DEATH RATE			12'6	„	„	
ADJUSTED DEATH RATE			10'6	„	„	
Average for England and Wales			12'1	„	„	
INFANTILE DEATH RATE			41'8	„	„	
Average for England and Wales			50'0	„	„	

VINE HOUSE,

GRANTHAM,

October, 1940.

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District for the year 1939.

This report, by direction of the Ministry of Health will be shorter than usual, only essential points being noted.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infantile Death Rate follow very closely the average for England and Wales. The list of causes of death is appended, and has no particular features of interest. As in the preceding year, one death only was attributable to child-birth. Three deaths only from pulmonary tuberculosis are satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	8
Pneumonia	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	19
Measles	...	...	3
			—
Total	...	...	37
			—

Measles and Whooping Cough were made notifiable during the latter part of the year.

This list is a satisfactory one, only eight cases of Scarlet Fever being notified, and there were no cases of Diphtheria. We were much more fortunate as regards this last named

disease than neighbouring districts. The fact that only two notifications of Tuberculosis, one pulmonary and the other non-pulmonary were received is remarkable. Comments have often been made from year to year that the incidence of this disease has lessened, but no such satisfactorily small figures have ever been recorded. Three cases of Scarlet Fever received Hospital Treatment. The only case of puerperal fever notified made a complete recovery.

The usual table of notifiable diseases and Tuberculosis, together with the causes of death is appended.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS,

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Diseases		0 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...		1	7	...	...	...	8	3
Diphtheria ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...		...	1	2	...	...	3	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...		...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas ...		..	..	1	...	...	1	...
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...			at	all	ages		1	...
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) ...			at	all	ages		1	...
Whooping Cough ...							19	
Measles ...							3	
							37	

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1939

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
35	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...		1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—

Causes of Death in West Kestevan Rural District, 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				MALE	FEMALE
All Causes	...	...	...	83	110
1 Typhoid fever, etc.	...	...	...	—	—
2 Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...	1	1
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6 Influenza	...	...	...	1	4
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8 Cerebro-Spinal fever...	...	...	...	—	—
9 Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	2
10 Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—
11 Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—
12 General paralysis of insane	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer	...	...	...	12	9
14 Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3
15 Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	1	8
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	25	30
17 Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	—
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	11	16
19 Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	—
20 Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	2
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	1
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	3	1
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
24 Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	—
26 Other liver diseases	...	...	...	—	1
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	—	3
28 Nephritis	...	...	...	—	2
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30 Other puerperal diseases	...	...	...	—	1
31 Congenital causes, etc.	...	...	...	5	1
32 Senility	...	...	...	1	8
33 Suicide	...	...	...	2	—
34 Other violence	...	...	...	8	2
35 Other defined causes...	...	...	...	6	12
36 Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	—	1
Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	...	...	...	1	2
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—					
Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year —					
Total	...	...	...	6	4
Legitimate	...	...	...	6	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—
LIVE BIRTHS—Total				116	123
Legitimate	...	...	...	109	118
Illegitimate	...	...	...	7	5
STILL BIRTHS—Total				8	6
Legitimate	...	...	...	8	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—

**Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for
the Year 1939.**

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
19, WATERGATE,
GRANTHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the West Kesteven
Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth Annual Report of Work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1939.

It is much to be regretted that this year's work which commenced on a high note of Public Health activity with various water supply and sewerage schemes in view, together with an extensive housing programme, was at first retarded by the Government's instructions to concentrate on the preparation of Air Raid Precautions Schemes, and finally completely stopped when the Country entered into the war on September 3rd.

It therefore appears that the execution of these public works will remain in abeyance until the conclusion of hostilities.

Nevertheless it will be seen from the details appended in my report that a great deal of work has been carried out, notably the reconditioning of Houses under the Housing Rural Workers Act, 1926, their repair under the Housing Acts and the Inspection of Meat and other Foods, notwithstanding the call of Air Raid Precautions, in connection with which the duties have been very exacting.

I would take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Council for the continued consideration and support that I have received in the execution of my varied duties, and also to the Clerk of the Council, who takes a great interest in the work of the Department and whose valued advice is always so readily given.

The Staff of my Department, two of whom are now serving with the Forces, have also greatly assisted by their loyal co-operation and the diligent way in which they carried out their duties, which have been particularly arduous, necessitating frequently long hours.

I am, Sir, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. L. ROBINSON,

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

October, 1940.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections carried out during the year were 3,611, details of which are appended in the following table :—

Dwelling Houses inspected under the Housing Regulations, 1925 ...	83
Ordinary Inspections for Housing Defects	346
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress (including reconditioning of houses under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 ...	279
Inspections of New Buildings (Supervision under the Building Bye-Laws)	245
Inspections of Workshops including Bakehouses	67
Inspections of Slaughterhouses and Foodshops	595
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	185
Samples of Milk taken for analysis	2
Inspections of Petroleum Stores	30
Inspections re Water Supply	451
Samples of Water taken for analysis	30
Inspections re Overcrowding	13
Routine Inspections and supervision of Council House Repairs ...	211
Inspections of Sewer Dykes and supervision	87
Inspections re Infectious disease and rooms disinfected ..	15
Number of drains tested	65
Inspections re Scavenging	34
Inspections re Sewage Disposal	120
Inspection of Moveable Dwellings	1
Inspections in connection with Relaying of Sewer in Main Street, Denton	27
Inspections of Knackers' Yards	3
Verminous premises inspected	14
Rooms disinfested	25
Inspections in connection with Air Raid Precautions	554
• Miscellaneous Inspections	143
<hr/>	
Total	3,611
<hr/>	

NOTICES SERVED.

70 Intimation Notices or letters were sent, dealing with 78 premises. 6 Statutory Notices were served under the Public Health Acts.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

The following list gives particulars of defects remedied or work carried out after the attention of the owner or occupier has been called to same.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Houses reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926	19
Roofs and Chimneys repaired	28
Rain-water guttering renewed or repaired	19
Windows repaired or made to open	84
Improved lighting	76
Walls and ceilings repaired	102
Firegrates, cooking ranges renewed or repaired	18
Floors repaired	51
Doors and staircases repaired	47
New coppers provided	9
Washing accommodation provided	11
Dampness remedied	14
New paving provided	16
New Sculleries provided	7
Food stores repaired and ventilated	6
Food stores provided	9
New baths provided	8
New sinks provided	6
Miscellaneous repairs	18

DRAINS.

Drains unstopped, trapped or repaired	11
Houses and premises redrained	13

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Insanitary premises abolished	2
New P.C. pails provided... ..	27
New P.C. apartments erected	21
New Pedestal W.C. Basins fixed	2
P.C. apartments repaired	8

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Drainage provided	2
Dairies and Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	8
Cowshed floors repaired	4
Cowsheds reconstructed	5
Accumulations of manure removed... ..	2
Additional light and ventilation provided	3

HOUSING, 1939.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	144
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	346
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	83
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	228
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	75

2—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	36
--	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied after service of formal notices	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	24
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	24
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	175
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	41
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Housing work has been hampered during the year, first by the intensive A.R.P. requirements and then by the outbreak of war, which brought this important Public Health work to a standstill.

Nevertheless as will be noticed after a perusal of the statistics detailed in this report a great deal of improvement in Housing Conditions has been obtained during the period under review.

Much remains to be done, and it is to be hoped that circumstances will soon permit the continuance of the work of abolition of slum property and the re-housing of tenants.

At the outbreak of war tenders had been received for the construction of 50 Council Houses for Rural Workers, but unfortunately owing to war conditions the work could not proceed.

15 Demolition Orders have been made during the year and 5 houses demolished.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.

19 Houses have been reconditioned under this Act, during the year, and grants amounting to £2,000 were approved in connection with 21 dwellings which is an average grant of £95 4s. 9d. per house.

This is a very large decrease in numbers when compared with the previous year's figures, which is undoubtedly due to the outbreak of war and to the period of political uncertainty prior to it. On the outbreak of war all grants in connection with work which had not already been commenced were cancelled. Consequently schemes being prepared in respect of a number of houses did not mature.

WATER SUPPLY

Although a great deal of attention has been given to the question of water supply in the District, I am unable to record any great measure of progress due largely, it would appear, to the unsettled conditions and eventual outbreak of war. In connection with the North Regional Scheme Professor Edgar Morton made a geological survey of the eastern part of the district submitting a report upon various alternative proposals for obtaining the supply of water required. This however was received shortly before the commencement of war and therefore no definite steps could be taken.

With regard to the provision of a water supply system to Old Somerby, following upon a Diviner's advice, an order was placed to commence the sinking of a 6" diameter-bore, with a view to obtaining a supply for the village and exploring the possibilities of securing a sufficiency of water for the nearby parishes of Ropsley, Ingoldsby, Lenton and Boothby. In this instance also work could not be proceeded with owing to the outbreak of hostilities.

During the year water was continually carted to the parishes of Long Bennington, Westborough and Dry Doddington where a large proportion of the inhabitants are now consumers.

The water supply to the village of Barrowby has been maintained satisfactorily, 9 connections having been made to private premises during the year. The standpipes are also becoming more generally used, the consumption of water having steadily increased from 110,000 gallons during the quarter ending 31st December, 1938, to 174,000 gallons during the quarter ending 31st December, 1939.

The Colsterworth Water Supply System and the Springs and Supply Systems at Ancaster and Sudbrook have continued satisfactorily during the year, 5 new connections being made at Colsterworth.

A satisfactory supply of water has been maintained in the parishes of Claypole, Stubton and Fenton, the new system of water charges coming into force in April of the past year, together with the supply of water to farms being charged by meters. This has resulted in a considerable saving of water as will be seen by the following quarterly comparisons during the years 1938 and 1939:—

Quarter	1938	1939.
March ...	1,902,000 gallons	1,768,000 gallons
June ...	1,868,000 ,,	1,644,000 ,,
September ...	2,010,000 ,,	1,686,000 ,,
December ...	1,885,000 ,,	1,630,000 ,,

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A sewage disposal scheme for the village of Colsterworth and adjoining hamlet of Woolsthorpe was prepared and received consideration, but unfortunately it was not found possible to proceed with the scheme owing to the cost, which, it was felt, was too great for the Parish to meet without some financial assistance from the Government.

The construction of the Sewage Disposal Works at Skillington was not proceeded with owing to the political situation.

The condition of the Sewage Disposal Works at Claypole still continues to be unsatisfactory, major reconstruction being necessary before the sewage of the village can be at all properly treated. The Barrowby Sewage Disposal Works though still not satisfactory have been improved, further labour being provided to give the plant the attention it needs. As a result the clarity of the effluent has markedly improved.

The routine work of cleansing sewer dykes and septic tanks has been carried out from time to time.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The quarterly collection of tins in the parishes of Caythorpe and Fulbeck has continued, and also the various parish collecting dumps have been emptied from time to time as found necessary.

No system of regular collection, though badly needed in a number of parishes, has yet been put into operation.

VERMINOUS DWELLING HOUSES.

3 houses were found to be verminous and infested with bugs. Steps were at once taken to disinfect them by means of fumigation or a vermicide spray. These methods proved successful and the vermin were eradicated.

FOOD SUPPLY.

The total number of registered and licensed Slaughter Houses in the District is 37, which although kept as clean as

possible by the owners are in many cases structurally most unsatisfactory.

As will be noted by the undermentioned figures a large number of animals have been inspected with a corresponding increase in the quantity of meat surrendered as being unfit for food.

In one instance legal proceedings were instituted against a butcher for slaughtering on unlicensed premises, without giving notice of the slaughter of a beast, or of the fact that it was unsound and removing the offals from the place of slaughter before inspection. The defendant was convicted on each count, fines totalling £30 with £5 5s. costs being imposed.

During the year 595 visits were made to Slaughter Houses and Food Shops, the number of carcasses examined being as follows :—

Oxen	...	...	...	246
Sheep	...	...	...	425
Pigs	...	...	...	263

As a result of these inspections 4,219 lbs. of diseased or unsound meat were voluntarily surrendered, and 16-lbs. were seized and laid before a Magistrate for condemnation.

KNACKERS' YARDS.

Both the Knackers' Yards have been inspected periodically and have been kept in fair condition.

MILK SUPPLY.

355 persons are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, as Milk Producers, 3 new registrations being made during the year.

Three firms retail Pasteurised Milk in the District.

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES.

Number in force (Petroleum)	...	52
„ (Carbide)	...	4
New Petroleum Licences	...	7
„ Carbide „	...	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections of the above were carried out as below : —

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Inspections.		Written Notices.		Occupier Prosecuted.	
Factories	...	—	...	—	...	—
Workshops	...	67	...	3	...	—
Workplaces	...	—	...	—	...	—
		—		—		—
TOTAL	...	67		3		—
		—		—		—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Found.		Remedied.		Referred to H.M. Inspector		No. of Offences.	
Want of cleanliness	...	1		1		—		—
Want of Ventilation	...	—		—		—		—
Overcrowding	...	—		—		—		—
Want of drainage of floors	...	3		1		—		—
Other Nuisances...	...	7		2		—		—
Sanitary accommodation	...	1		—		—		—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts	...	—		—		—		—
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse	...	—		—		—		—
Other Offences	...	—		—		—		—
		—		—		—		—
TOTAL	...	12		4		—		—
		—		—		—		—

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council now own 178 houses in various parishes of the district, all of which have been maintained in proper order. 16 houses were painted during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The following plans have been approved and buildings erected by private enterprise during the year :—

Houses erected or altered	...	...	53
Garages, Huts, etc.	...	...	4
Cowsheds	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	10

